



RECEIVED  
SEP 29 2003  
TC 1700

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend and consider the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing the thermal stability of a well fluid comprising:

mixing ~~an effective amount of~~ a miscible amine in the well fluid, wherein the well fluid comprises a natural polymer used as a viscosifying agent, and ~~wherein the mixing occurs in an absence of a bentonite and a cross linkant~~ wherein the miscible amine is used in an amount effective to prevent substantial decomposition of the natural polymer as the well fluid is used.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the miscible amine comprises an amine selected from the group consisting of primary, secondary and tertiary amines, and mixtures thereof.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the amine comprises about 0.2% to about 20% by weight of the well fluid.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the amine comprises about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of the well fluid.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the natural polymer comprises about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the well fluid.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the natural polymer comprises about 0.3% to about 1.5% by weight of the well fluid.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the natural polymer comprises hydroxyethylcellulose.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the miscible amine comprises triethanol amine.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing the thermal stability of a well fluid comprising:

mixing about 0.1% to about 50% by weight of a miscible amine into the well fluid, wherein the well fluid comprises a natural polymer used as a viscosifying agent, and wherein the mixing occurs in an absence of a bentonite and a cross-linkant wherein the miscible amine is used in an amount effective to prevent substantial decomposition of the natural polymer as the well fluid is used.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the miscible amine comprises an amine selected from the group consisting of primary, secondary and tertiary amines, and mixtures thereof.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the amine comprises about 0.2% to about 20% by weight of the well fluid.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the amine comprises about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of the well fluid.
13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the natural polymer comprises about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the well fluid.
14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the natural polymer comprises about 0.3% to about 1.5% by weight of the well fluid.
15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the natural polymer comprises hydroxyethylcellulose.
16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the miscible amine comprises triethanol amine.
17. (Currently Amended) A thermally stable well fluid comprising:  
  
a natural polymer used as a viscosifying agent; and  
  
an effective amount of miscible amine,  
  
~~wherein the natural polymer and the miscible amine are mixed in the well~~  
  
~~fluid in the absence of a bentonite and a cross-linkant~~wherein the

miscible amine is used in an amount effective to prevent  
substantial decomposition of the natural polymer as the well fluid  
is used.

18. (Original) The well fluid of claim 17, wherein the miscible amine comprises an amine selected from the group consisting of primary, secondary and tertiary amines, and mixtures thereof.
19. (Original) The well fluid of claim 18, wherein the amine comprises about 0.2% to about 20% by weight of the well fluid.
20. (Original) The well fluid of claim 19, wherein the amine comprises about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of the well fluid.
21. (Original) The well fluid of claim 19, wherein the natural polymer comprises about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the well fluid.
22. (Original) The well fluid of claim 20, wherein the natural polymer comprises about 0.3% to about 1.5% by weight of the well fluid.
23. (Original) The well fluid of claim 17, wherein the natural polymer comprises hydroxyethylcellulose.

24. (Original) The well fluid of claim 17, wherein the miscible amine comprises triethanol amine.
25. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a well comprising:
  - injecting a well treating fluid into the well, wherein the well treating fluid comprises a natural polymer used as a viscosifying agent and a miscible amine mixed in an ~~absence of a bentonite and a cross-linkant~~ amount effective to prevent substantial decomposition of the natural polymer as the well fluid is used.
26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the miscible amine comprises an amine selected from the group consisting of primary, secondary and tertiary amines and mixtures thereof.
27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the natural polymer comprises hydroxyethylcellulose.
28. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the miscible amine comprises triethanol amine.
29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the miscible amine comprises about 0.1 % to about 50% by weight of the well treating fluid.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the miscible amine comprises about 0.2% to about 20% by weight of the well treating fluid.
31. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the natural polymer comprises about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of the well fluid.
32. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the natural polymer comprises about 0.3% to about 1.5% by weight of the well fluid.
33. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing hydration time and transition temperature in a well fluid comprising:  
  
~~mixing an effective amount of a miscible amine with a natural polymer in an absence of a bentonite and a cross-linkant used as a viscosifying agent, wherein the miscible amine is used in an amount effective to prevent substantial decomposition of the natural polymer as the well fluid is used.~~
34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the miscible amine comprises an amine selected from the group consisting of primary, secondary and tertiary amines and mixtures thereof.
35. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the natural polymer comprises hydroxyethylcellulose.

36. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the miscible amine comprises triethanol amine.
37. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the miscible amine comprises about 0.1 % to about 50% by weight of the well fluid.
38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the miscible amine comprises about 0.2% to about 20% by weight of the well fluid.